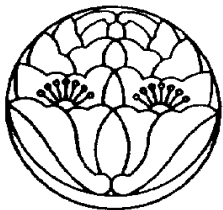


Hakalau Jodo Mission
PO Box 296
Hakalau, Hawaii 96710



Hakalau Jodo Mission

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April 2023 NEWSLETTER

For Our Members, Friends, and Neighbors



Thanks to you, **by the end of March**, our 2023 Membership appeal ended with 73 dues paying Members and Friends compared with the **entire prior year's** total of 21 Members & Friends. That's something to celebrate! As you know, we depend on annual support from members and friends to cover a significant portion of our routine operating expenses including utilities, insurance, maintenance and supplies. We are truly grateful for your commitment and support!

Now that we have fully returned to regular services and a full schedule of in-person classes and community events the Newsletter will be distributed bi-monthly beginning with the May-June issue. As always you have the option of receiving the Newsletter electronically via email or printed and mailed. Please let us know of any changes in your contact information or preferences.

In gratitude,

Susan Forbes, President

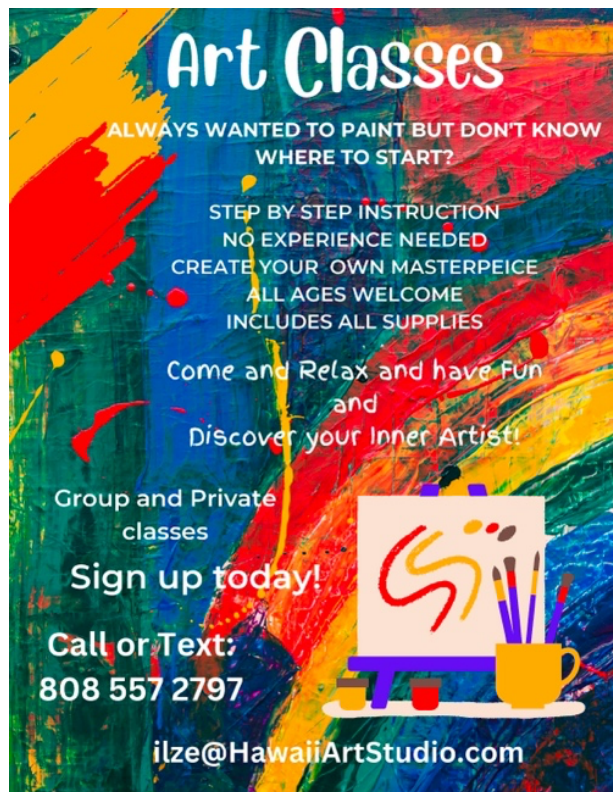
2023 SERVICES

<p>Sunday, April 9th 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Hanamatsuri: Buddha's Birthday--Shakyamuni Buddha was born in 463 BC at Lumbini in northern part of India (currently in Nepal). Lumbini was the traditional land of the Shakyamuni clan and Shakyamuni was born as the prince of the Shakyas. It is said that when Shakyamuni was born, birds sang, flowers bloomed, and two elephants poured sweet dew for bathing Shakyamuni. At the service, members pray by pouring sweet tea over the statue of Shakyamuni placed in a miniature flower garden of Lumbini. Shakyamuni's right hand points to heaven and left hand to earth. This is a service of remembrance and celebration.</p>
<p>Saturday, May 27th 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Memorial Day Service: The Memorial Day Service is one of our commitments to the greater Hakalau Community. It takes place in front of a monument honoring the boys and young men from this area that died in World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam. (We are unaware of any who died in more recent wars.) This service is a Buddhist service of remembrance and there is also a veteran speaker. This is followed at the Hakalau Jodo Mission with an "All American" lunch.</p> <p>Our speaker this year will be Michael Doolittle who served in Vietnam as a combat infantry platoon sergeant. He is a retired real estate developer. Currently he serves as Chairman of the Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial Inc and Chairman of the Hawaii County Veterans Advisory Committee for Mayor Mitch Roth.</p>

NENKI MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR APRIL:

Ushi Miyashiro	4/4/1987	37 th
Harry Yamanaka	4/5/2022	1 st
Ryotei Arakaki	4/19/1981	43 rd
Shizue Hirai	4/20/2007	17 th
Aaron Sugino	4/23/2022	1 st
Ei Ichiryu	4/28/1999	25 th

CLASSES: Advance registration, please. Contact the instructors:



Art Classes

ALWAYS WANTED TO PAINT BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTION
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
CREATE YOUR OWN MASTERPEICE
ALL AGES WELCOME
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Come and Relax and have Fun
and
Discover your Inner Artist!

Group and Private
classes

Sign up today!

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808 557 2797

ilze@HawaiiArtStudio.com

- **Art Classes open to all age groups: "My Art, My Journey",** an art class with Ilze Sims in the Dining Room. **FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING.** This is a class for anyone who would like to start their art journey and for those with some experience who would like to find new inspiration to express themselves through their art. Ilze's method balances inspiration and play – crucial elements in expressing ourselves, along with principles of good design and color harmony. The first few classes will **address finding inspiration, creating a good design, and harmonizing color.** Call or text Ilze 808-557-2797 or send an email: ilze@HawaiiArtStudio.com to sign up for classes.

- **Bon Dance Practice with Sensei Jane Heit:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. **Contact Jane Heit at bonqueen@gmail.com.**

- **Karate for Children with 4th Degree Black Belt Patricia Taniguchi:** Twice Weekly for each age group on Wednesdays and Fridays. Children 4-6 years old, 4:00 - 4:50 p.m.; 7-12 years, 5:00 - 5:50 p.m. **Contact Patricia Taniguchi at**

WKA.hakalau@gmail.com.

- **Practice Yoga with Alison Simpson:** Four times weekly **through April 20th**: Mon 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Tues. 9:00-10:30 a.m., Thurs., 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Fri., 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Alison will be on vacation from April 21st until May 19th. Classes will resume May 23rd.** **NOTES:** Students must be fully and currently vaccinated against Covid-19. **Contact Alison Simpson at 808-825-7856 or alison@mahanahouse.com.**
- **Tai Chi with Sifu Slade Shim:** Wednesdays, 8:30 -10:00 a.m. **Contact Slade Shim at wsi808@yahoo.com.**

For more information, go to <https://www.hakalauhome.com/upcoming-events.html>.

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR IF YOU NEED HELP!

- Junshin Miyazaki, Minister: 808-936-7828 or gongqi326@hotmail.com
- Susan Forbes, President/Newsletter Editor: 808-286-6130 or sksforbes@gmail.com
- Akiko Masuda, Community Liaison: 808-963-6422 or msakiko@hawaii.rr.com

RECENT EVENTS

MEMBER MEETING

We held our member meeting on March 12th, the first “in person” meeting in many years. The purposes of member meetings are to elect officers and directors, report on the activities as well as the revenue and expenses of the previous year, and other business as needed. The activities of 2022 were reported regularly in last year’s newsletters.

We did not need to elect officers and directors this year since they were elected at the 2022 meeting, with terms expiring in 2024. The current officers and directors are listed below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| • Susan Forbes, President | • Jan Nakamura, Immediate Past President |
| • Mike Stolp, Vice President | • Banchan Bamba, Director |
| • Bob Juettner, Secretary/Treasurer | • Garry Wyckoff, Director |

Thanks to the skillful proofreading of our bylaws by Lori Ann H. Zakahi, daughter of long-time members Robert and Norma Yara, we adopted revisions to the bylaws which corrected errors and simplified language. (None of the revisions were substantive.) We are grateful for Lori Ann’s contribution to improving our bylaws.

The President’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, and the Bylaws Revisions were adopted unanimously using a Consent Agenda.

PETFIX SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

PetFix is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to caring for cats and controlling the population by offering free spay/neuter clinics. On March 25-26, they used our Social Hall for a clinic and “fixed” 200 cats.

Spay/neuter and trap-neuter-return (TNR), when properly performed and paired with vaccinations, are humane and effective strategies to reduce the number of animals on the streets while also improving their health.

There are currently no spay/neuter resources along the Hilo/Hamakua Coast.

Offering this service at the Hakalau Jodo Mission helped to fill this community need. We anticipate this service *may* be offered at the Mission twice a year.



SERMON FROM REVEREND JUNSHIN MIYAZAKI

We were delighted that 21 people attended the Higan service, including two new members from Hakalau Plantation Village and other neighbors from Hakalau Plantation Village and Chin Chuck Road. Also joining us were our members Garry and Anne Wyckoff from *Cape Cod*.

Ohigan is a unique Japanese Buddhist event, generally regarded as a day for visiting graves. Ohigan is a seven-day period; the equinox day plus three days before and after equinox. The spring and autumnal equinoxes are national holidays in Japan. Buddhist temples hold memorial services and people eat mochi wrapped in red bean paste, called botamochi or ohagi.

Ohigan was established based on Japanese folk belief in the sun and ancestral spirits, *mixed* with Buddhism.

The origin of the Higan Buddhist memorial service dates back to 806 AD. At that time, Japan was ruled by the emperor and the aristocracy, and Buddhism was the state religion. In 785, the emperor's younger brother Sawara was caught up in a political dispute and sent to his death for a crime he probably did not commit.

After that, the emperor's relatives died of illness one after another, and floods and epidemics broke out. This was believed to be the haunting of Sawara. Various rituals were held to repose Sawara but did not work. Therefore, the emperor ordered all the national temples in Japan to appease the spirit of Sawara. The temples read Kongo-Hannya-kyo Sutra or 'the Sutra of diamond wisdom' for a total of seven days, three days before and after the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. This service became established as a custom and was called Higan-e service.

Hannya is a phonetic transcription of the Sanskrit word prajna, meaning wisdom. The Prajna sutras teach the idea of sunya or emptiness and recommends the practice of six kinds of trainings called the Six Paramitas to attain Buddhahood. Paramita means to reach other shore, which is Higan in Japanese. The Six paramita

Practices are forbearance, keeping precepts, meditation, donation, devotion, and wisdom. The most important one is the wisdom or prajna paramita to understand sunya or emptiness.

Sunya is one of central concepts of Buddhism. Sunya means zero in Sanskrit.

This Heart Sutra, a summary of the Prajna sutras, is one of the best-known sutras in Japan.

The 2nd line of the sutra says that the Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, called Kannon in Japanese, practiced the perfection of wisdom and realized that the five aggregates are empty, thus attaining release from all sufferings. Kannon is one of the flanking attendants of Amida Buddha and is so popular that he is worshipped as a stand-alone figure.



Hakalau's altar: In the forefront on the left is a figurine of Kannon. The wooden statue on the right depicts Amida Buddha in the center, Kannon on the left, and Honen on the right.

In the sutra Kannon says that form is emptiness, emptiness is form, everything is empty or something like that to Sāriputta, the Buddha's disciple. Since the idea of Sunya or emptiness is too difficult for me, I will briefly talk about the other five paramitas.

Forbearance is about enduring unpleasant things and not letting your mind wander. If you find my Dharma talks boring, please consider them as an opportunity to practice this forbearance paramita.

Keeping precepts means not to do bad things. Buddhism tends to emphasize not doing bad things first rather than doing good things.

Meditation means mental unification. Zen Buddhism focuses on this paramita. Zen generally refers to zazen or mediation sitting cross-legged, but for us, I believe that single-mindedly reciting Namu Amida Butsu is meditation.

Devotion is, for us, reciting Namu-Amida-Butsu and accumulating virtues wholeheartedly.

Donation is not only the offering of money or goods, but also includes offering labor and treating others kindly.

I think that you are practicing paramitas admirably because you are doing Nembutsu, attending services, helping church, and being kind to others.

Please continue to accumulate virtues and lead happy lives.

NAMU AMIDA BUTSU

SHARING THE DHARMA- BUDDHISM FOR ALL



Jodo Mission
Daily Affirmations

Now that in person services, classes and community events like O-Bon and Senior Lunches are fully resumed we are committed to creating more opportunities and resources for members and friends interested in basic Buddhist education and study. As an introduction we are offering everyone a free copy of our ***Jodo Mission Daily Affirmations*** - a small pocket-sized pamphlet from the Hawaii Council of Jodo Mission with basic Buddhist definitions and inspiring affirmations for daily living.

Please call, text or email Susan to receive your free copy of ***Jodo Mission Affirmations*** and stay tuned for announcements of additional resources, classes and events.

Contact: hakalaujodomission@gmail.com or call or text (808) 286-6130.

PRESERVING OUR LEGACY:

The Mission's memorial plaques are loving reminders of those who came before us.

In March, we welcomed four visitors to view their family plaques and share family history.

Yolanda Morita of Lakewood, Washington, widow of Reginald Morita and daughter-in-law of the late Jack and Edna Morita of Wailea, wanted to see the plaques on the pew she sponsored. She was accompanied by Helen Yamamoto of Hilo, cousin of her late husband and his brother Ralph.

During the tour, Yolanda decided to sponsor another pew for her husband's grandparents, Shuichi and Maki Yamamoto.

As Yolanda shared the Morita family history, a mystery was solved.



Yolanda Morita (left) and Helen Yamamoto standing behind plaques for Yolanda's late husband, Reginald Morita, and his parents, the late Jack and Edna Morita of Wailea



Hawaii Tribune Herald, August 6, 1960, accessed via Newspapers.com



Hawaii Tribune Herald, September 2, 1960, accessed via Newspapers.com

The mystery? Why did the Yamamoto Store in Wailea become the Morita Store in 1960?

The answer: When the older Yamamoto's passed away, the store was passed on to the oldest son, George. When George and his family moved to the Mainland, the store was taken over by the daughter Edna and her husband Jack Morita and became Morita Store.

The red building that first housed the Yamamoto Store and subsequently the Morita Store is an iconic feature of plantation days in Wailea.





Greg and Leanne Kirk seated next to plaques for the Noji and Fujii Families and the Morikawa Family, all from Hakalau "Down Camp"

Greg and Leanne Kirk visited to see the plaques honoring her ancestors and relatives, the Nojis, the Fujiis, and the Morikawas, all of whom lived in Hakalau Down Camp (officially known as Hakalau Lower Camp).

Leanne's mother grew up in Hakalau Down Camp. Her mother's parents were Shigeyoshi and Masae Fujii (maiden name Noji). Her grandmother, Masae (Noji) Fujii, and her parents and siblings grew up in Hakalau. Her grandmother's parents were Tamehichiro and Hisako Noji. Their children were: Masae, Gene, Mamoru, Masaru, Masato, and Matsue Noji.

The relationship to the Morikawa family is interesting! Leanne's great-grandfather, Tamehichiro Noji's real last name was Nakagawa. His brother was Kakuichiro Nakagawa. Kakuichiro changed his last name to Morikawa, and Tamehichiro changed his last name to Noji when they came to the USA. They were escaping to Hawai'i because they were the second and third sons of the Nakagawa family and did not want to be drafted into the Sino-Japanese war.

Kakuichiro's son was Toraichi Morikawa, a Hakalau community leader. He was active in scouting for 38 years, including 34 consecutive years as Scout Master for Hakalau's Troop.

Leanne's grandmother was Toraichi Morikawa's cousin.

An interesting find: On May 22, 2021, volunteers cleaned out the Mission's shed and found this kohaku maku, i.e., red and white skirt, donated by Tamehichiro Noji to Sunday School on the Buddha Day of April 8, 1926. During Obon, this skirt adorned the yagura.



PRESERVING THE MISSION:



The parsonage, above center, was built in 1936, as were the temple and Social Hall. For more than 60 years, it served as home for ministers and their families: Rev. Yamanaka (from 1936-37); Rev. Mamiya (1937-75); Rev. Tanaka (1975-79); Rev. Tamura (1979-96); and Rev. Sawaguchi (1996-99). By 1999, as a result of the demise of the sugar industry, many members had moved away and the Mission could no longer afford a full-time minister. The parsonage became a rental unit.

For the past three years priorities for restoration have been the Temple and Social Hall. **Now it's time for the parsonage.** Since February, volunteers have worked over 150 hours, cleaning, repairing, sanding, painting, and installing new fans, fixtures, and flooring in the kitchen and bathroom.

Many thanks to these volunteers:

Barbara Alford, John Boyer, Ken Forbes, Heather Fryer, Lembi James, Bob Juettner, Debbie Kuntz, Rev. Miyazaki, Mike Stolp, and Garry Wyckoff.

Thanks also to our carpenters **Roger Byrnes** and **Danny Rodrigues** for restoring the screen windows, replacing ceiling panels, and much more.



Mike Stolp and Ken Forbes in the midst of installing new kitchen flooring

The entire complex will be tented for termites on May 4th. After that, we expect to be ready for new tenants. The parsonage is located on a one acre parcel, nestled in Hakalau Plantation Village, a quiet residential neighborhood. **This is a special place.**

LEARN MORE:

<https://www.hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission-today>
and <https://www.hakalauhome.com/hakalau-jodo-mission.html>